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# DIDSBUY REVIEW

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2010

[www.didsburyreview.ca](http://www.didsburyreview.ca)

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Volume 23 Issue 01



Dena Wannamaker and her team soar towards the finish line at the first annual Rosebud Run Mush Rush, Saturday.

Tamara Cunningham/Didsbury Review



Tamara Cunningham / Didsbury Review

Skijorer Ivar Appelman finishes the first heat of the Mush Rush race.

## Future mushers hold own

BY TAMARA CUNNINGHAM  
*Didsbury Review*

A 13-year-old from Olds has become the poster boy for the Rosebud Run Mush Rush after taking top time in the first heat and placing third overall.

Alex Roemmle had never been behind a team of dogs until Saturday but was able to keep pace with experienced mushers like Dena Wannamaker and Hans Appelman.

"We wanted to give novices an opportunity to gain experience and make a name for themselves - and there Alex is...he's exactly what we wanted to see," said Bill Windsor, an organizer for the day-long event.

"He is the next generation of musher."

Roemmle said he was nervous heading into his first race, but after gliding four miles along the track he was ready for a second go.

"It was pretty fun," he said in between heats.

He was leading with a 14:27 time, while Hans Appelman of Westeros took a close second with 15:13 and Rachel Wannamaker had third, with 17:09.

Before the second heat, racers were expected to guess their time - those closest would take home the prize.

"I don't care if he gets a prize as long as he's faster than he was the first time," said Colin Emerson, a distance musher and Roemmle's mentor.

Roemmle must have taken his words to heart because he shaved off 47 seconds to place third.

Hans Appelman took first place and Jesse Byiers of Didsbury took second. The winners took home a Rosebud Run cap, T-shirt or mug.

"This event turned out very, very well...we did what we wanted to do and had few holdups," Windsor said.

"I was surprised at how smoothly things went."

He can't recall any big glitches.

A new musher, Kevin Sparham from Calgary, lost his dogs at the start line, causing some delay in the chute.

But since part of the event is experience - no one minded waiting, Windsor said.

"I'll tell you, that musher will never again miss a start time again in his career and that's important."

Sue de Caen, a Calgary musher, attended the event to train her dogs and said she really enjoyed the lack of pressure.

"We are coming in last; my dogs haven't been out running much," she said, chuckling.

"But in this event it doesn't matter. It's fun and friendly...and there's no hard-core mushers or crowds."

De Caen - and 13-year-old Roemmle both plan on coming back to the Rosebud track January 30 and 31 for the larger Rosebud Run Sleddog Classic.

"Hopefully my dogs will have a little more mileage on them by then," she said.

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# Teen crosses country for truckers

*Her father is with her every step of the way*

BY MARK LAYCOCK  
*Courier Staff*

Lee Jordan has nothing but time on his hands at the moment. Since Sept. 1 he has driven from California, all the way to Texas at a sustained speed of about 10 km/h. In front of his truck is his 16-year-old daughter Jasmine, who has been running in front of him the entire time—and neither of them are stopping until they reach New York City.

Jasmine, or "Jazzy" as she's commonly referred to, is on a mission to run across the U.S. to raise funds for truck drivers who don't have insurance to pay for medical bills. As of last Tuesday, the two were nearing Odessa, Texas, after almost four non-stop months of running.

Her father, a born Canadian and former Carstairs resident, isn't the only one cheering her on throughout her journey. Her entire family—much of who still reside in Carstairs, including her grandparents George and Rosalie Jordan, her aunt Lenora Riley, and two cousins Cody and Bryton—have been following her every move online and over the phone since the run began.

Her grandfather admits he was quite surprised when he heard about what his granddaughter planned to do and is quite proud of her. He has enjoyed keeping track of where she's at, even from so far

away.

"It's been very interesting. It's quite an endeavour. I put everything on hold, my whole life on hold for this," says Lee.

Last week marked an important milestone in the run when Jazzy hit the 1,000-mile mark.

"That's a big milestone for her. I couldn't image even

***"It's incredible, the bonding that my daughter and I have done. You can't buy this kind of time with your children, especially when they're 16, 17 years old."***

LEE JORDON  
*parent*

driving 1,000 miles anymore, but my daughter has run 1,000 miles—that's incredible."

Jazzy's determination to complete a run across the U.S. isn't just meant as a tribute to hardworking truck drivers in the U.S. and Canada, but is meant as a dedication to a close family friend and co-worker who passed away earlier this year.

Lee is the proud owner of two small, family run truck-

ing companies: Jordan Enterprise and Jordan Pilot Car Services, both stationed out of Dalton, Minnesota. Earlier this year, one of Lee's pilot-car drivers, Sheila Grothe, became ill. Due to the time it took for her to receive a diagnosis for her illness, she ended up passing away last April.

Jazzy was with Sheila in her last days, something that made a profound impact on her and prompted her to take on this challenge. She was already well prepared for the run, as she had been training with a coach from Ukraine to participate in the next summer Olympics—a prospect she has since given up on in favour of this pursuit.

Jazzy is running to raise funds for the St. Christopher Truckers Development and Relief Fund, a U.S. organization that aims to provide financial assistance to truckers who are unable to make payments for medical treatment.

"Jazzy wanted to do something to make a difference about the lack of health care that we have," explains Lee. "The availability is here, but the cost is so astronomical that nobody can afford it."

Lee says that about 70 per cent of truckers in the U.S. "run across this country and make America move with no health insurance at all." Because many truckers work for small trucking



Photo Submitted

**ALTOGETHER NOW** - Jasmine Jordan (third from left) runs down a Texas highway with her family. She is running across the U.S. to raise funds for truck drivers who can't afford medical treatment.

businesses, he says that most of those businesses simply can't afford to provide benefits for their employees.

"I can barely keep my head above water running the business the way it is. There are no benefits to my business at all; I'm too small. I cannot provide them with anything except updated equipment to drive, that's about it."

Lee says that had his father been living in the U.S. when he was diagnosed with cancer, the outcome may have been completely different.

"I have a dad, and he's healthy as a horse, you'd never know he had a problem. Down here in the U.S. once that cancer went into

remission the first thing that would happen is the insurance company would drop him like a bad habit and he would never get insurance in the U.S. again."

"Down here he would have lost everything by now: his health, his car and everything he ever worked for... to pay for his medical bills."

Lee says that going across America has been a phenomenal experience for him and his daughter.

"It's incredible, the bonding that my daughter and I have done. You can't buy this kind of time with your children, especially when they're 16, 17 years old."

Throughout her mission, she has continued to promote her cause with daily

updates over satellite radio and on Facebook.

"Trucking is the most thankless job in Canada and America, and to have a 17-year-old who actually cares is pretty unique in my books," he says.

The run is long from over, but Lee says that's no deterrent.

"This has just about cost my wife and I everything, but I refuse to stop until I can't put gas in this pickup anymore, I'm not stopping. This is my daughter's dream and I refuse to break it. I can always buy more trucks and trailer, but I can never replace my daughter's heart."

Jazzy's progress can be found on [www.runwithjazzy.com](http://www.runwithjazzy.com)

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Growing Forward

# Card exchanged 49 times

BY TAMARA CUNNINGHAM  
Didsbury Review

For the last five decades, Adolph Wolkoski and Lily Coghill have come to expect that at least one of them will get the same old Christmas card.

The travel-worn greeting - taped along the spine and torn in places - has become a cherished tradition for the couple. It's kept their friendship alive for 49 years.

"We started this a long while ago when we were young and foolish and it just kept going," explains 84-year-old Wolkoski.

"No matter where I go, I can expect this card in my mailbox."

It started in 1960 when Wolkoski and his wife Judy moved the family from Yorkton, Saskatchewan to Winnipeg.

They sent Christmas cards to their friends to keep in touch and the next year one of their cards was shipped back.

"How long could we keep this one going back

and forth!" wrote Coghill. Since that first message, the card has been sent back and forth between the two families. It's survived the death of spouses, moves and retirements.

There have only been a few years when it wasn't sent and only because it lay forgotten in a pile of last year's greetings. It was always found and sent again the following season.

"What I find amazing is that it has never been lost or interrupted by the mail service...it keeps on coming year after year," Wolkoski said.

The messages written are all carefully dated and read like "Hi folks come up and see us," or longer, "For the first time in 30 years we've taken our holidays in Oct. Went to see Toronto and Ottawa. Even got to see Trudeau and Clark in action..."

All the memories are precious to the friends.

Wolkoski hopes that when the weathered card retires, his daughter will end up with it - though that may not be for a few years yet.



Tamara Cunningham/Didsbury Review

Adolph Wolkoski holds the card sent between him and Lily Coghill for 49 years.

"Waiting for the card to arrive is just thrilling...as long as I am alive and able I think we will continue

this," said 90-year-old Coghill.

"There is still room to add to it."

## Robertson leads Thunder

BY TAMARA CUNNINGHAM  
Didsbury Review

An elusive league championship is at the forefront of a local hockey player's mind.

Josh Robertson, 21, is in the final year of junior eligibility with the Airdrie Thunder and wants his team to turn years of potential into the longed after league championship.

"For the last two years we have come in second to Okotoks (Bisons) in playoffs, hopefully we can get past them this year," said Robertson.

"It really sucks to work all season and then be beat."

Robertson has been playing for the Airdrie Thunder since he started an engineering degree at the University of Calgary three years ago.

The 5-foot 7 forward grew up in Didsbury and briefly played for the Mountainview Colts before making the transfer to Airdrie - the driving distance from Calgary had become too much, he said.

Head coach Mike Carlsen was glad to take him on.

Since Robertson started in 2007, he has become a top scorer in the league.

Despite playing only 19 games this season, he's amassed totals of 16-21-

37. The numbers equal his 2006-07 16 goals and could surpass last year's 23 goals.

"Robby is one of my 21-year-olds and a leader on and off the ice for sure," said Carlsen.

"He's been with us for three seasons so he works hard on and off the ice and younger guys look up to him for it."

Robertson plays the fire line in power play and does a fair bit of penalty killing. Few of his teammates can play on all situations as he can, Carlsen said.

With this being his top player's last year on the team, he hopes they can secure a championship title. They are sitting top



JOSH ROBERTSON

of the division right now with 18-4-2.

"We have always been close in the regular season but never able to finish it off...this year we are a younger team so it will be tough, but we want to go all the way," Carlsen said.

## Dragons provincially recognized

BY TAMARA CUNNINGHAM  
Didsbury Review

The Didsbury senior boys are arriving back on the hardcourt this year as one of the top teams in the province, according to ASAA rankings.

Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (ASAA) released its standings last week and lists Didsbury High School as an honourable mention and among the top 15. The Dragons beat out 2A rivals, Hugh Sutherland and JC Charyk.

"I don't know what to say. This is exciting stuff," said coach Jeff Johnson.

"It shows a belief that we are an up-and-coming team and someone to watch out for."

Post James Lefebvre

learned the news over the holidays and said he's shocked the team has done so well early in the season.

"We are a fairly young team and we haven't played a whole lot of games...you don't expect teams without a lot of experience to be ranked in the top 15," he said.

He's not sure how the team will rank next but hopes they continue to climb towards the top 10 where teams like Drumheller Composite and St. Joseph Collegiate in High River currently sit.

"I think we could get there...and if not this year then next year. We will have a lot of the same players and more experience," he said.

Johnson believes with a few more games under

his players' belts, they will be able to beat anyone on that list.

"This year our goal is to make it to provincials

and get prepared for next year...we want to be at the point where we can beat anyone on that list."

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# Opinion

## Commentary

### Bond sales a good idea – to a point

DAN SINGLETON



The Stelmach government recently announced that the first offering of new provincial capital bonds will go towards providing more housing for Alberta's seniors.

For many seniors the \$100 million plan is welcome news, helping them at a time when costs are on the rise and there is more and more demand for housing from a growing segment of the population.

Not surprisingly, government cabinet ministers have been quick to sing the praises of the new financing scheme.

"While many worthwhile infrastructure projects could be financed through Alberta Capital Bonds, we had a good debate in the legislature and the top priority of MLAs supporting this initiative was to help our seniors with accommodation that allows them to live with dignity in their community," said Jack Hayden, Minister of Infrastructure.

Mary Anne Jablonski, Minister of Seniors and Community Supports said: "By increasing the number of affordable spaces, we are providing more options for Albertans to remain in their communities and to stay close to family and friends when they can no longer live independently due to increased personal care needs."

Even embattled Health Minister Ron Liepert had his say: "Alberta's new capital bonds will help ensure seniors continue to have a place to call home that best serves all of their needs."

Yet while few people would argue that seniors should be given support when it comes to affordable housing, the financing of vital community supports and programs through bond sales may end up being a double-edged sword for all Albertans.

That is, if this latest scheme proves successful, will the Stelmach government be tempted to sell millions - or even billions - of dollars more worth of bonds to pay for other public services, such as schools, hospitals and roads?

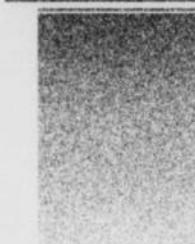
Make no mistake, bonds are not grants; they will be redeemed, with interest, somewhere down the road. In a very real way, the selling of bonds to finance vital community projects, in this case seniors' housing, is very much a buy now, pay later proposition.

The provincial government has a responsibility and an obligation to provide public infrastructure and community support services, while at the same time living within its means.

The Klein government made much of its elimination of the provincial deficit and debt – much of the hard work to make that happen, of course, came on the backs of health-care workers, educators and ordinary taxpayers.

The Stelmach government should be applauded for doing what it can to help Alberta seniors find affordable places to live. Yet at the same time, it must avoid the temptation to use back-door methods to put the province back into debt.

**WHY DOES  
DREARY OL'  
WINTER  
LAST SO  
LONG?**

Baldy  
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## Letter to the editor

### Resident tells of holiday experience

Dear Didsbury,

It is the morning of December 25. The sky is overcast and a light rain has been falling for most of the night. It looks and feels like a warm spring day. What a beautiful way to spend Christmas.

The celebration here in Rwanda is a different experience than in Canada. We saw only a few buildings in the city decorated with Christmas lights.

Most Rwandans will – if they can afford it – give their kids a piece of candy on Christmas Day.

If the family is Christian they may go to church, after which they will go home or to the homes of family and friends for a meal.

The meal itself is a special treat. It could include meat – which is not

usually cooked.

Other than these few things, there is no real difference between Christmas Day and any other day for Rwandans. People do what they usually do – laundry and travelling to the market.

Apparently New Year's is a much more celebrated event than Christmas, so it will be interesting to see what will transpire then.

Christmas we spent going to church. I preached the message; we went to visit and deliver gifts to a very poor family and then went to Richard's home (he is the guy who stayed with us for six months).

His mom cooked us a meal, which consisted of a cooked bean and pea dish, rice, meat, a fried egg and a bottle of soda.

On our way back from their house

to the place we are staying we stopped at a place called Bourbon Street, which is Rwanda's version of Starbucks, and I had a Grande latte!

We are enjoying being in Rwanda and have been very busy with Ev doing a lot of the Christmas gift distribution to the orphans. I have been busy dealing with a lot of administration things with the Home of Hope and Word of Life organization. Our time in Rwanda is about half done, and my to-do list seems to be getting longer.

We hope you had a fabulous Christmas with your family and friends. We would love to hear from you. The Internet at the place we are staying at is slow, so please don't send us pictures.

Dan and Ev Peters  
danielkehlerpeters@gmail.com

## Make peace, not war

GWEN RANDALL-YOUNG

No one really likes conflict, and yet sometimes it shows up in our lives more than we want it to. It is easy to blame a parent, spouse or child, assuming it is their behaviour that creates the conflict. Often there is a pattern of criticizing, judging or trying to change the other so that we can have some peace.

In politics, I was always struck by the irony in the phrase "fighting for peace." War does not create peace in the world, or in our relationships. It is

only by being peaceful ourselves that we can create peace. It takes two sides to have a war or a fight, and we can decide not to be one of them.

How then, do we deal with differences? The "peaceful warrior" states what he or she thinks, feels or wants and listens carefully to the other's point of view. If the other is open to discussion or negotiation things proceed amicably.

If, however, one is met with resistance or opposition, there is a choice to be made. Either make a statement of intention indicating a desire not to

fight, and to seek solution, or decide to end the conversation. Creating peace requires recognizing when conflict is imminent, and making a conscious choice not to co-create that.

By refusing to fight, others may follow the example and take a more positive approach. If, instead, you find that too many things are unresolved because the other will not have a reasonable discussion, once again, there are choices to make.

Gwen Randall-Young is a psychotherapist and author

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**Letters to the editor:** Letters submitted for publication must be signed and bear the address, phone number and e-mail address of the writer. Please keep your letter to 500 words or less. Letters may be edited for grammar, punctuation, spelling, length and libel. Unsigned letters will NOT be published. Use of pseudonyms will be permitted only under special circumstances, provided the writer's identity is known to The Review.

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Didsbury Information Line	403-335-2030
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## PUBLIC MEETINGS & NOTICES

### REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:

Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers

### MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 4:30 pm in Council Chambers

### 2010 BUDGET MEETING (for the Town of Didsbury):

Monday, January 25, 2010 from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm in Council Chambers

### PUBLIC HEARING:

Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers

*The Town Office will be closed the second Friday of every month from Noon to 1:00 pm (next date: January 8, 2010)*

## TOWN OF DIDSBUY PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT to the authority of Town Council as provided in Section 674 of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A.

2000, Chapter M-26, as amended, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of an encroachment into a Municipal Reserve located at Lot 1MR, Block 2, Plan 0214290 (Silverstone Place) from the property legally described as Lot 14, Block 2, Plan 0214290 (39 Silverstone Place). Plans showing the location of the said encroachment into the municipal reserve may be inspected and information obtained from the Town of Didsbury Municipal Office during regular office hours, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A Public Hearing prior to Council making a decision regarding allowing the encroachment to remain will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, commencing at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town of Didsbury Municipal Office, 2037 – 19 Avenue.

The hearing will be conducted under the chairmanship of the Mayor, or his designated person, for the purpose of hearing opinions and comments and/or objections to the said encroachment.

The style of the hearing will be informal and persons wishing to speak will be requested to state their name and address for the record upon being recognized by the Chairman. Opportunities to speak will not be restricted, but recognition to speak will be at the discretion of the Chairman. Written responses will also be accepted up until 12:00 noon January 12, 2010.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION of this notice: December 29, 2009

DATE OF SECOND PUBLICATION of this notice: January 5, 2010

Alana Gibson,  
Development Officer

## UNPAID PROPERTY TAXES???

TAXES NEED TO BE PAID BY DECEMBER 31, 2009

*Any December 31st outstanding balance will have an  
18% PENALTY applied on JANUARY 4, 2010*



*Christmas is over ..... What do you do with your tree? RECYCLE!*

Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission is encouraging you to recycle your Christmas tree! All fees are being for the disposal of non-artificial Christmas trees! Trees can be dropped off at the following locations: Mountain View Regional Waste Landfill, the Olds Eco Site, the Sundre Transfer Station and the Water Valley Transfer Station. Please make sure your tree is free of tinsel, lights and decorations. All transfer stations would be happy to take your tree on any normal day of operation. Please do not leave your tree at your local recycle centre.

*Natural trees will be received at NO COST, until January 17th, 2010*



## DIDSBUY NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE

- **YOUNG CHEFS** - Learn the tricks of preparing quick, simple, fun to make meals that taste great! Classes include kitchen safety & meal preparation. The best part is you get to eat what you make. For ages 8 - 12. 3 sessions begin January 12, 2010 from 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm at the Multi-Purpose Room kitchen. \$40.00 fee includes food.
- **RED CROSS BABYSITTING COURSE** - Saturday, January 16, 2010. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm @ Didsbury Neighborhood Place. Cost is \$50. For ages 11+.
- **MOTHERS UNITE SALE** - Book your table NOW to sell your gently used (or new) children's clothing, toys, furniture, etc. NO household items. Sale takes place January 30, 2010 in the Multi-Purpose Room, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.
- **GO GIRLS** - Are you between 10 - 13 years old and looking for some girls activities? Join us for this fun 6-week program, which offers self-esteem, peer-building activities that may include a spa class, scrapbooking and card making. Jan. 14 - Feb. 18, 2010 @ Didsbury Neighborhood Place. Cost is \$45 for 6 sessions.
- **SPORTS FOR SHORTS** - Looking for an exciting program for preschoolers? Sports For Shorts explores sports like soccer, basketball and other fun indoor activities - all geared towards 3-5 year olds. This 6-week program will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room Monday nights from January 11 - February 22 from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Cost is \$35.00 for 6 sessions.
- **BUSY BUDDIES** - The Town of Didsbury is offering this popular program introducing games, basic crafts, sing songs and finger plays. Parents must attend class with child. Join us Wednesday mornings from 11 am to 12 noon, from January 13 - February 17 at Didsbury Neighborhood place. For children aged 2 - 4 years. Cost is \$35 for the 6 weeks.
- **TODDLER GYM TIME** - Join Town of Didsbury staff for a high energy hour in the Multi-Purpose Room. Check out our age appropriate toys and gym equipment. This course is for children under 3 years old. January 14 - February 18. Cost is \$35 for 6 weeks.

### COMING IN FEBRUARY 2010:

- STANDARD FIRST AID & CPR - FEBRUARY 6 & 7
- ACTIVE PARENTING - 6 SESSIONS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2
- WEE SIGN - FEBRUARY 12
- BIG COOK - FEBRUARY 26

For more information or to register, call DNP at 403-335-8719

## ATTENTION RESIDENTS OF MORRIS MEADOWS

The Town of Didsbury Public Works department has observed misuse of towels in the sewer system in Morris Meadows. Products such as paper towels, and commercial grade wipes cause the pumps to malfunction and sewage could back up into basements.

Please ensure you do not put products of this kind down the toilet (sewer system).

*The Town of Didsbury*

## REMEMBER TO RENEW & LICENSE YOUR DOG OR CAT

*As per Bylaw 2007-09 and Bylaw 2007-10  
All Dogs and Cats must be licensed  
in the Town of Didsbury*



## FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY: ALL ANIMAL LICENSES ARE ONLY \$10

*Regular Price: Animal Licenses: \$15/tag for altered  
\$30/tag for unaltered  
Watch your mail for the annual renewal notice  
Call 335-3391 for more information*

## WATER METER READS



During the winter months, with the amount of snow accumulation, the Public Works staff are experiencing difficulty walking through heavy snow to read water meters.

The Town of Didsbury Staff and Public Works department would appreciate if residents and businesses would please shovel a trail through the snow allowing access to do meter reads.

*Thank you, Public Works Management and Staff*

*Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission is encouraging you to recycle your Christmas tree! All fees are being for the disposal of non-artificial Christmas trees! Trees can be dropped off at the following locations: Mountain View Regional Waste Landfill, the Olds Eco Site, the Sundre Transfer Station and the Water Valley Transfer Station. Please make sure your tree is free of tinsel, lights and decorations. All transfer stations would be happy to take your tree on any normal day of operation. Please do not leave your tree at your local recycle centre.*

*Natural trees will be received at NO COST, until January 17th, 2010*

# Snowmen build fan base in town, online

BY TAMARA  
CUNNINGHAM  
*Didsbury Review*

Two colossal snowmen built to bring holiday cheer have become instant celebrities in this town.

"Every time I go there, I see someone taking pictures," said Kurtis Person, owner of Personal Electric.

"It's getting a lot of attention...I took some pictures for people from Germany and I heard that people as far as Mexico have seen them."

Person helped create the two 30-foot behemoths, with Cornerstone Enterprises and the public works department.

The project began when public works began to wonder what it should do with snow collected from a blizzard in early December - haul it away

or pile it up?

"Then we thought, why not have some fun with it," said Ralph McDonald, public works foreman.

**"It's getting a lot of attention..."**

**I took some pictures for people from Germany and I heard that people as far as Mexico have seen them."**

**KURTIS PERSON**  
Owner of  
Personal Electric

"(Snowmen) would be something for everyone to enjoy."

It took one day to sculpt

the bulbous bodies with a track hoe and another to decorate.

The volunteers hauled in filter cloth for the belt, traffic cone noses and painted plywood buttons and eyes.

Two days after the snowmen were built, Dawson Philips, 10, went to the Didsbury Memorial Complex parking lot to take pictures and put them on the weather network.

"I thought it was really cool. They are so big... I wanted other people to see them too," he said.

He was surprised to learn his pictures garnered over 2,000 views. Photos have also received attention on the video sharing website YouTube.

Geoff and Lana Rogers, residents of Didsbury, saw the pictures online and swung by the site over the weekend to get a



Tamara Cunningham/Didsbury Review

Didsbury public works staff dress up piles of snow into 30-ft-tall snowmen, with the help of Personal Electric and Corner-Stone Ent.

closer look.

In the six years they've lived in the community, they've never seen the like, they said.

"I think it's a great use of snow...and it's putting Didsbury on the map," said Lana Rogers.

The town says it will

eventually pull the snowy celebrities down, but is pleased "such a fuss has been made" in the meantime.

## Didsbury Lions chip old conifers

BY TAMARA  
CUNNINGHAM  
*Didsbury Review*

For nearly a decade, the Lions club of Didsbury has helped residents dis-

card old Christmas trees. This year will be no different.

The club will host the annual Christmas Tree Chip Off at the public works garage on 19th

Street, Jan. 9 between 12 and 3 p.m.

Residents are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item and trees bare of ornaments to the event, said Allan

Gingrich, president of the Lions Club.

"We will have coffee, hot chocolate and maybe even some cookies for people who stop by," he said.

Gerard Fournier, owner of For Trees, will be helping to chip the conifers. He'll use the material for mulch.

"We have an excellent recycling system right

here in Didsbury," he said.

"Everything goes back into the earth instead of being put in a landfill with the rest of the garbage."

Approximately 70 trees were chipped last year.

**ROYAL LEPAGE**

**Wildrose Real Estate**

INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED



**GORGEOUS**  
6 bdm walkout bungalow on 2 acres close to Didsbury. Has had lots of upgrades. Large heated shop 30' x 40'.

MLS #C339670  
\$619,000



**REDUCED**  
Beautiful location. Crossed and Cross-Fenced. 2 bams. 2 wells. 1 min NW of Bearberry.

4 Bedroom home  
Priced to sell quickly



**MOBILE TO BE MOVED**  
3 bdm, 2 baths, open floor plan. Large addition. Vendor motivated.

MLS #C3385780  
\$32,000



**REDUCED**  
7.2 ACRES + 4 ACRES LEASED  
Charming bungalow. 5 bungalow, 5 bedrooms, 1 1/2 bath. 2 Quonsets. Older home. 100' x 120' garage. 4 box stalls like new. Back deck & waterline. Motivated for quick sale.

MLS #C3393180  
\$510,000



**LEGACY VILLAGE 45+ CONDO**  
Handicapped accessibility. Two on-site visitor suites.

MLS #C3397545  
\$199,000



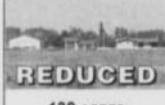
**VERY QUIET AND PRIVATE**  
No building timelines - 5 acres West of Didsbury.

MLS #C3395500  
\$185,000



**1.88 ACRES**  
In town limits backs on Golf Course. Immaculate 1992 bungalow & workshop, storage shed. Lovely grounds.

MLS #C3391384  
\$499,000



**REDUCED**  
Beautifully renovated 1500 sq ft bungalow. Triple car garage - 48x120' mach shed. Trees - pasture - fenced. Lots of water + gas rev.

MLS #C3382315  
\$775,000



**SOLID OLDER HOME**  
Solid older home looking for face-lift. New shingles will be installed. Carefully lived-in for 30 some years. Large lot has room for garage or shop.

MLS #C3400772  
\$154,000



4 bedroom country home on 1.060 acres overlooking Dogpound Creek. Attached 3 car garage. 820 sf suite above garage provides \$475.00 mthly revenue.

MLS #C3399267  
\$599,900

**Mel Dick**  
403.540.0277

**Sarah Konschuh**  
403.556.9219

**Mei Crothers**  
403.556.5267

**#10 2014 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Didsbury**

Phone: 403-335-9778  
1-877-335-9778  
Fax: 403-335-9340



## BEEF BREEDERS 2010

**BEEF BREEDERS 2010  
DISTRIBUTION OUTLINE**

**Montana View Gazette** - Serving the communities of Red Deer, Lethbridge, and the surrounding areas.

**Red Deer Express** - Serving the communities of Red Deer, Lethbridge, and the surrounding areas.

**Rocky View Weekly** - Serving several rural areas in Rocky View County.

**Calgary Sun** - Serving the city of Calgary and surrounding areas.

**Edmonton Journal** - Serving the city of Edmonton and surrounding areas.

**Winnipeg Free Press** - Serving the city of Winnipeg and surrounding areas.

**Total Circulation 73,500**

**Beef Breeders 2010 will examine the beef industry in Central Alberta and showcase current issues and solutions being found. Advertising in Beef Breeders 2010 will grant you access to the large beef breeding market in our region.**

**CALL NOW TO INCLUDE YOUR  
SALE INTO THE 2010 BEEF  
BREEDERS SUPPLEMENT**

**Red Deer Express**  
403-346-3356

**Olds Albertan**  
403-556-7510

**Carstairs Courier**  
403-337-2806

**Sundre Round Up**  
403-638-3577

**Didsbury Review**  
403-335-3301

**Rocky View  
Weekly**  
403-948-1885

**Innisfail Province**  
403-227-3477

**Published the week of February 3, 2010.  
Advertising deadline is January 18, 2010.**



**Mountain View  
GAZETTE**

**Red Deer  
e press** **Rocky View  
WEEKLY**

# Community Resources

This is a free community event listing service, sponsored by area businesses, provided to non-profit organizations or local community groups. Listing is free to any non-profit organization or community group in the

**CITIZENS ON PATROL** - Didsbury/Carstairs. Driving in a neighbourhood near you. To volunteer call 403-335-8755.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** - Membership meetings are the 2nd Wed. in June, September, November and January. For more info please call 403-335-3265.

**DIDSBUY TOPS** Take Off Pounds Sensibly! Come and join us every Wednesday evening. For more info call Judy Coutts at 403-335-2212 or Rosemary 403-335-2835

**BEAVERS** Tues. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Eldon Foote Hall. Kids 5 to 7 years old, boys and girls welcome.

**TIME OUT** Child & Youth Clubs of Didsbury's Moms' Time Out and Dads Too program. At Didsbury Neighborhood Place Mondays 10-11:30 a.m. Call 403-335-4270

**KING HIRAM LODGE #21** has its regular meetings at 8 p.m. every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

**ST. HILDA CHAPTER #27 O.E.S.**

Has its regular meetings at 7:30 p.m. every 3rd Tuesday of the month. For info. Call Marg Steckler at 403-335-4281

**DIDSBUY SENIOR SUPPORT SERVICES** Co-ordinated assistance for seniors. Call 403-335-4391.

**DIDSBUY SHUTTLE BUS**

Scheduled transportation for anyone on Monday, Wednesdays & Fridays 9 - 3. Please call day prior or by 8:00 a.m. for pick up. 403-507-0208. Wheelchair accessible. Sponsored by the Didsbury Lions Club.

**DIDSBUY ELKS LODGE** Supper Meeting - 4th Thursdays. Regular Meetings - 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month. Call 335-4676 for info.

**LEARNING DISABILITIES MTN.** View Chapter. Support and info for parents and teachers dealing with learning disabilities. For info call Susan at 403-335-3174.

**DIDSBUY MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC** - Provides free accessible mental health services. Which incl. assessments, individual family & group counselling & crisis intervention. Mon - Fri. 8:30-4:00.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** Meetings Fridays 8:30 p.m. at the Masonic Hall, Didsbury, 21 Ave. and 21 St. For information call Colleen at 403-335-8484 or Rick at 403-9525.

**HALL RENTALS:** Rosedale Hall rentals. Call 403-335-9945 or 403-335-4606.

**RUGBY HALL RENTALS CALL** Delta @ 403-335-8767, for meetings, family events or reunions.

Didsbury Review distribution area. While every effort will be made to ensure each request for publication is granted, the Didsbury Review does NOT GUARANTEE publication for a variety of reasons including space

constraints. To try and accommodate as many requests as possible, please keep submissions to 20 words or less. Please have your submissions in at least two weeks prior to the date of the event you are publicizing.

**BABY DROP IN** @ Didsbury Neighbourhood Place from 9:30 to 11:00 on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month. A great opportunity to meet other new parents.

**DIDSBUY ELKS LODGE** supper meetings every 2nd and 4th thursdays. Supper at 7:00 p.m. meeting at 8:00 p.m. Call 403-335-4655.

**SUPPER INVITATION** - The Didsbury Lions Club welcomes men & lady visitors at their supper meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month, 6:45 p.m. at the 5-D Club. For information and to RSVP call 403-335-9173 or 403-335-4796.

**DIDSBUY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACE** is a resource centre for the down, we provide information and referral services, community programming, FCSS, resource lending library and meeting space available for rent. Please call 403-335-8719.

**GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA** - For fun, friendship and adventure for girls and women of all ages! Join anytime. Leaders are needed for all units, no experience necessary. Ages: Sparks 5/6; Brownies 7/8; Guides 9 - 11; Pathfinders 12 - 14; rangers 15 & up. Call Karen 403-556-6881 for more info.

**FRIDAYS** - Cabbage starts at 5-0 Club at 7:00 p.m.

**ARC SENIOR RVERS CLUB** - is looking for new members. No weekend camping. For more information contact Jim 403-289-8363 or Mary 403-932-5711. ttn

**MIDWAY SCHOOL** - We would like to welcome you to the midway community. We hope to provide you with some local treasures and information about midway. Contact Tanya @ 403-337-8862. ttn

**CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICE** Blood Donations will be held at Didsbury Club Mon., Feb. 1, 2010. 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm

**ROSEBUD HALL** - December 22 Games Night 7 p.m.; January 5 Games Night 7 p.m.

**ROSEBUD HALL** Dec. 22 Games Night 7:00 pm. Jan. 5 Games Night 7:00pm

**DIDSBUY LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS TREE CHIPPING** at Town Shop Jan. 7, 2010 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Hot chocolate will be served. Donations to Food Bank will be appreciated.

**THE CARSTAIRS CORSAIRS FENCING CLUB** offers epee and foil lessons. Registration: Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 - 8 pm at the meeting room in the Carstairs Arena. 403-351-3505. 1-2

Lunch Combos  
\$4.99  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
COMBO #1  
2 pieces of chicken,  
wedges and 4 oz. salad  
COMBO #2  
Chicken strips, wedges  
and dipping sauce  
COMBO #3  
Chicken wings and wedges  
COMBO #4  
Large soup and  
half sandwich

\*Excludes weekends & holidays

## Church Directory

The REVIEW is pleased to provide this Church Directory as a community service

### Anglican Church of Canada

#### St. Cyprian's

2037 - 24th Ave. Didsbury - 335-4664  
Rector - Rev Bonnie S. Luft  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  
Mid-week service every third Wednesday 9:30 a.m.  
St. Cyprian's is a small, friendly Christian Community who welcomes newcomers. Sunday School will start back in September.

### Knox United Didsbury

#### 1406 - 19th Avenue

Minister Nancy Nourse  
Please join our church family for worship, 10 a.m. each Sunday.

Nursery Care available for infants and toddlers. Sunday school provided for ages 3-17. For information about mid-week programming for children, youth and adults please call 335-8373 or see our website at [www.knox-united.com](http://www.knox-united.com).

### West Zion Mennonite Church

South of Didsbury to sign - West 1.5 miles  
Pastor Trevor Krieka, info - 337-2020

Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.  
Nursery available during service.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

### Berghal Mennonite Church

Didsbury, Alberta

5km S of the Didsbury Overpass,  
8km E on Berghal Rd.  
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service - 11 a.m.  
Pastor: Elwin Garland  
For more information ph. - 335-4451

### Redeemer Lutheran

LUTHERAN CHURCH CANADA

1500 - 23 ST. Y Rev. Robert Mohns  
Church: 335-3161 / Res: 335-3656  
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Y Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Adult Bible Study Sunday - 9:30 a.m.  
Holy Communion 1 & 3 Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
Jr. & Sr. Youth, Women's & Seniors Ministry Group  
Small Group Bible Study meetings  
throughout the week

### Mountain View Evangelical Missionary Church

14 km East of Didsbury Pastor Art Numana  
Office: 335-4422

Morning Worship 11 a.m. Y Sunday School 10 a.m.  
For information concerning the weekly activities  
please call the Church Office.

### St. Anthony's Catholic

2030 - 24 Ave. Didsbury

For more information please contact  
Claudia Baril - 335-3842  
Catholic Women's League:  
Wendy MacKenzie 335-8507  
Knights of Columbus: Gary McNeil - 335-8611

### Chinook Winds Christian Centre

1710 - 14th Street Didsbury

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10 a.m.  
Dynamic Worship and Bible Teaching  
Children's Ministry & Nursery Services  
Ph/Fax: 335-3551 Y Email: [cwcc@airnet.com](mailto:cwcc@airnet.com)  
Senior Pastors: Richard & Beth Kope  
Associate Pastors: Corey & Erin Kope  
Celebrating 25 years in Didsbury  
Members of Ministers Fellowship International

### Zion Evangelical Missionary Church

Corner Hwy. 582 & 20th Ave.

Phone: 403-335-3629 Web: [www.zemc.org](http://www.zemc.org)  
Mike Morgan, Senior Pastor  
John Reimer, Associate Pastor  
(Life Groups & Worship)  
Colin Creighton, Associate Pastor  
(Global Connections & Youth)  
Alison LeFebvre, Director of Youth Ministries  
Christine Little, Director of Children's Ministries  
Sunday School for all ages 9:30am  
Worship Service 10:45 am  
...with Children's Programs for up to Grade 6

## Good eats



Tabitha Sullivan, Bob and Audrey Smith and Matt Smith prepare to feast at the annual Christmas dinner.

The Christmas dinner at the Elks hall served a hot meal to over 80 people on Christmas Day, marking yet another successful event, organizers say.

"It was just wonderful. The atmosphere was great and everyone was happy," said Donnally McNeil.

She has put on the event for the last three years, although dinner has been served to the community on December 25 for more than 12.

Fifteen volunteers turned out to help cook and distribute food, while other residents baked pies.

"Without the help of all these volunteers and willing hands, this dinner would not have been as successful as it was. Thank you," McNeil said.

**SEE YOU IN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY**

2010 Great Grocery Giveaway  
Jan 1 - Feb. 13

**10% TUESDAY JANUARY 5**

**HOURS: Mon - Fri 8 am - 9 pm Sat, Sun & Holidays 8 am - 6 pm**  
**Sunday, January 3 to Saturday, January 9 403-335-9595**



We have the right to limit quantities



## In and Around Didsbury

Marge St Clair

### HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Come to the Curling Rink to watch some great curling while the Farmers Bonspiel is on from Jan. 4-9. The next week Jan. 11-15, the Seniors will be held, Jan. 16 is the Juniors. Jan. 19 & 20 is the Stick Spiel.

### Friday, January 8

Cribbage play will start at 7 p.m. at the 5-0 Club. All are welcome to come and enjoy the cards, the coffee and goodies served and the visiting.

### Saturday, January 9

The Mountainview Colts are home in the Didsbury Arena to play the Stettler Lightning at 8 p.m. They will really appreciate your cheers.

The Didsbury Lions Club is accepting Christmas trees for chipping from 12 noon until 3 p.m. at the old bus barns by the town shop. Please be sure you have removed all the decorations. Please bring a donation to the Food Bank for this service. Enjoy the hot chocolate being served.

### Monday, January 11

The annual general meeting of the Didsbury Agricultural Society is being held at the Didsbury Curling Club Hogline Room starting at 7 p.m. All interested parties are urged to attend.

### Wednesday, January 13

The monthly potluck dinner is being held at the 5-0 Club starting at 12:30 p.m. Bring your favourite meat dish, veggies, salad, or dessert and enjoy.

The 2nd and 4th Wed. of each month you are welcome to come to the museum from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. You can bring a craft you are working on or just to chat and meet new people Enjoy!

### Thursday, January 21

The Rosebud Community Hall is having the annual general meeting starting at 7 p.m. at the hall. Everyone welcome.

### Monday, January 25

First notice of the Didsbury Community Bus trip to Stage West in Calgary (Feb. 17). The play is "Glorious", a true heartwarming story of a group who lived their dreams. A great comedy! The bus will leave the complex at 9:30 a.m. Call Bea (403) 335-3058 to reserve your seat: **the money MUST BE IN TODAY.**

### Monday, January 25

The Didsbury and Area Support Group for families and friends of people with Alzheimer's or other dementias will meet at Aspen Ridge Lodge from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Phone Dolina (403) 335-7285 for more information.

### Tuesday, January 26

The Rosebud Health Foundation will hold the annual general meeting in the Education Conference Room (downstairs) at the Didsbury Hospital at 7:30 p.m. Election of officers to be held; please call Sharon Barefoot (403) 335-7626 for more information.

### Saturday, January 30 and Sunday, January 31

Tonight, the Mountainview Colts will be on the ice at 8 p.m. at the Didsbury Arena against the Rimley Rock Sun., the team will take to the ice again at 3:30 p.m. against the High River Flyers. Your support will be duly appreciated.

# Firehouse News

Another month has come and gone and beyond the Christmas splurge and New Year's hype, the icy roads and snowy conditions have kept us on edge waiting for our pages to go off. For the month of December we responded to 14 calls, with one day in particular having seven calls. That was the day when the weather was at its worst at -40 degrees. It caused a 20-plus car pileup on the QE II.

The Town of Didsbury is unique in having all members of the Fire Department mount green strobe lights on the dashboards of vehicles. This is a great accessory for us because when we need to respond to an emergency we can do so in a safe and efficient manner while notifying other drivers that we are in a hurry. When

you see a vehicle approaching from behind with its four-ways flashing and a green light blinking through the windshield, please be courteous, pull off to the side of the road and let it pass.

With the weather being



KYLE LEESON

less than travel-worthy, our training nights have been based around vehicle accidents and the medical

field. As members, we are trained to perform c-spine control (to prevent further neck injuries) and identify levels of consciousness (LOCs) which include blood pressure, blood glucose levels, and patients' temperature. The following week we put the refreshed knowledge to use.

One Wednesday night we took our trucks to a wrecking yard in the industrial park where we ran a scenario of a two-car collision. The intention was to better our knowledge of our equipment including the Jaws of Life, portable lighting and generator and hand tools. The officer in command told the crew that there was a patient of priority trapped in the vehicle left on its wheels. The first step was to stabilize the person and since I have my emergency

medical responder (EMR), I volunteered to climb in. I performed c-spine control while the other members pried open the driver's door. We got the plastic dummy out, strapped to the spine board and hauled away to safety. Afterwards we held a debriefing and a constructive criticism session to see where our strengths are and more importantly our weaknesses. This is just one of the many situations we can come across in an emergency situation but training nights like those help us to better prepare for them.

Thanks to everyone in and around the town of Didsbury for staying safe out on the roads and in your homes. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a great new year; I'll be sure to update you again next month.

### KATRINA GRAVES

December was as swift in coming as it was in going. Though some certainly despaired to see another year at completion, the students of DHS were gleeful at the prospect of a Christmas break. All welcomed a well-deserved hiatus from the textbooks, homework and tests. Not least of all the teachers, I'm sure. While December was a relatively short school month it seemed to the students to drag on like no other. Thankfully we were allowed brief respites in light of the coming holidays.

The annual Christmas concert and auction was a success as usual. All the

## Dragon's Eye



bands – five in total – performed their Christmas pieces beautifully and the crowd loved it! Thanks to the support of the parents

and people who came out and especially to those whose money at the auction went to helping out the band program. The



### REQUEST FOR TENDER MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR

Mountain View Seniors Housing invites tenders for a Maintenance Contractor in the Town of Olds. Term of the contract will be March 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012. Information packages are available at Aspen Ridge Lodge, 1100 – 20 Ave, Didsbury, Alberta, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday or email rob.osterdal@mvsh.ca to request a package.

All tenders must be placed in a sealed envelope and provide the following:

- Company name, address and background
- List of experience and qualifications
  - Include any equipment provided
  - Include examples of work in portfolio
- Customer references
- Service to be provided
- Cost of service per hour and maximum per year
- Proof of Liability Insurance and WCB coverage

Deadline for receiving tenders is January 15, 2010 at 4:00 p.m..

We may not necessarily accept the lowest or any bid. We reserve the right to reject any and all bids.

Tenders must be delivered to:

Mountain View Seniors' Housing  
Box 399, 1100A – 20 Ave  
Didsbury, Alberta T0M 0W0

Inquiries can be made to:

Rob Osterdal  
Maintenance Supervisor  
rob.osterdal@mvsh.ca



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Maintenance Supervisor  
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**Visit us online at  
[www.didsburyreview.ca](http://www.didsburyreview.ca)**

# MP Richards defends government's suspension of Parliament

BY DAN SINGLETON

For the Review

Wild Rose Conservative MP Blake Richards says the opposition parties are off base to suggest the Harper government has suspended Parliament to avoid questions about the torture of Afghan detainees formerly held in Canadian military custody.

The prorogation of Parliament, which will last until March, means the end of the investigation of the Special Committee on Afghanistan looking into possible government cover-up of the handling of prisoner detainees.

"Frankly, it's an issue (detainees) that I'm not hearing about from my constituents," said Richards. "It's not one of the issues that I'm hearing a big concern about. It's an issue that really is something that has been sort of more of an Ottawa bubble kind of an issue."

"Let's not get it wrong here; it's not an issue that isn't important, but what I'm saying is that through my constituents I'm hearing more about the deficit. That's the issue they want dealt with."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper asked for and was granted the suspension of Parliament last week.

Leader Michael Ignatieff said the principal reason Harper prorogued Parliament was to avoid releasing documentary evidence to the Special Committee.

"The decision to prorogue is about one thing and one thing only – avoiding the scrutiny of Parliament at a time when this government is facing tough questions about their conduct in covering up the detainee scandal," said Ignatieff.

The Harper government has already made changes to protect Afghan detainees from abuse, counters Richards.

"This is an issue that has been addressed and changes have been made," said Richards. "The changes that need to be made as a result of anything that may have happened have been made. Is there more to talk about on that issue?"

As for the prorogation itself, Richards says there are a number of good reasons behind the move.

"First of all we are looking at a budget that is round two of the economic action plan and part of that is starting to build towards when we come out of the recession and how we can get the deficit eliminated and so that will be ready for March," he said.

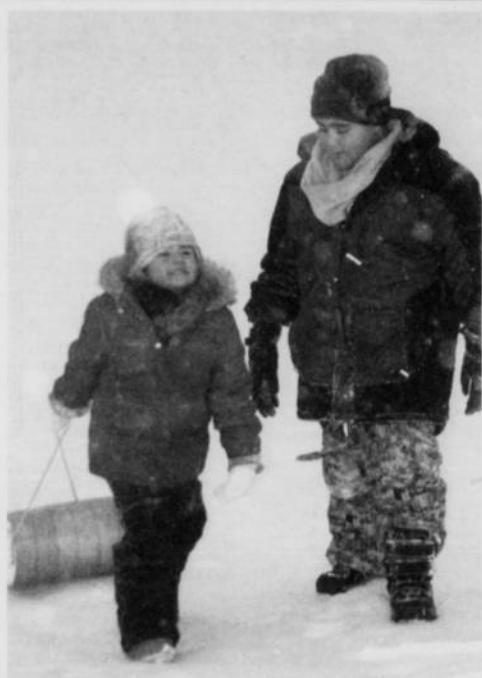
The prorogation will also allow the Conservatives to appoint more Senators, giving them the majority in the upper house.

That will allow the government to stop 'anti-democratic' manoeuvring by the Liberals, said Richards.

"We've got a situation where the Liberal party is really choosing to use the Senate as their way of really, in my opinion, being anti-democratic," he said. "What they are really doing is they are usurping the will of the elected Parliament by using the Senate to delay and stall and defeat legislation that does have the support of the majority of elected members."

Putting more Conservative Senators in the Senate will allow for future Senate reform, said Richards.

"If we are going to reform the Senate it is going to require that we have senators in the senate who will support reforming the Senate. To me that's what that allows," he said.



Tamara Cunningham/Didsbury Review

**COOL RUNNINGS** - Trayven Graham, 8 and his sister Olivia toboggan down a hill at the Didsbury Golf Course, last week.

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# Tough decisions for town ahead: council

BY TAMARA CUNNINGHAM  
*Didsbury Review*

Councillors are expecting an earful from residents in 2010 over issues ranging from the offsite levy to a local dog park.

"There will be, no doubt, some hard choices this year," said Mayor Brian Wittal.

"And with elections around the corner, a lot of these could be politically charged."

In an interview with mayor and council last week, representatives picked what they feel will be the most difficult decisions to make in 2010 and as early as January 12.

## Sewer Lagoon

The biggest project of the year could be the lagoons, estimated at just over \$13 million.

It could also involve one of the toughest decisions of 2010, said Wittal, during a year-end interview last week.

"We are so close to capacity...that if we don't get government grants then we have to look at either limiting future development or borrowing that money without provincial help," he said.

Neither option bodes well for the town.

Borrowed money could translate into a higher tax burden on townspeople.

While cutting back on development would mean putting the Town of Didsbury's campaign to attract industry on pause and turning away new home developers.

"I agree that this is going to be tough. These lagoons are something we need now. We can't wait on next year," said Coun. Gayle Veno.

"We are at capacity and I think we will continue to grow...so do we borrow that money? Do we find other grants? What are our options?"

The town expects to hear from the Ministry of

Infrastructure about whether it will receive a grant for the project before spring 2010.

## Dog Park

Residents could face higher licensing fees for their dogs if councillors vote in favour of an off leash dog park.

And not all pet owners are keen on the idea.

Sixty-five per cent of people surveyed by the Town of Didsbury said they were prepared to help offset costs, while 35 per cent spoke against it.

"There are a lot of mixed feelings. Some people think it's a waste to spend our money on a dog park," said Coun. Jason Brander.

"This could be one of those decisions where you please some and not others."

Council is expected to make a decision on whether this community will get an off leash area this month. Wittal doesn't expect the result will come easy.

"We may just try it for a year and see how people use it and abuse it. Then we'll review how it went and go from there," he said.

"This is going to be a hot topic...because people are so polarized about it and it directly impacts the community."

## Off site Levy

For the first time in five years, the town is stripping down the off site levy and restructuring the fee.

Reviews before now were cursory glances, but this move will be thorough with the intent of hiking the fee and making it more competitive with surrounding communities.

Presently, commercial, residential and industrial developers looking to hook up to town water distribution or sewer system pay a flat rate of \$17,000 per acre.

The rate is supposed to support the infrastructure required for growth, but town administration say they are not recovering costs.

"It may cost more to service one development over another. Is it fair they both

pay the same? Should we have a split rate? How competitive should we be with other municipalities?" questioned Roy Brown, chief administrative officer for the Town of Didsbury.

These questions have been looked at since July 2009 and are expected to yield a new structure this month. The process has cost taxpayers anywhere from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

"It's important we set it in place early in 2010 because it's a key for development. Costs have to be laid out so developers can set their lot prices," Wittal said.

He would like to see the town at full cost recovery and hopes developers see the value of this community and continue to build in the area.

## Budget

It's no secret that the town is struggling against tight budget constraints this year.

In 2009 the Stelmach government had promised the town \$600,000 in Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding but due to the recession cut the grant by 44 per cent.

In 2010 Didsbury was supposed to get additional funding, but has learned it will receive the same amount as last year - about \$264,000.

"We are getting less but costs of doing business are increasing...we have to figure out how we can maintain services to have the least impact to residents," said Wittal.

At the budget meeting Jan. 25 the town will look at options like increasing taxes to maintain some of the services townspeople have grown to depend on.

Organizations that have come forward with hat in hand, such as the local library, will also find out what kind of financial support they will receive in 2010.

"The bottom line is...the budget is tight this year and everyone is trying to grab at what little money there is," Veno said.

"It's very hard for municipalities (like ours) to stay viable and keep ahead of the next tax dollar."

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## NELSON, ANORA LOUETTA

Anora Louetta Nelson, daughter of Bruce and Vera Nelson of Didsbury passed away peacefully at home Christmas Day at the age of 45 years. Her memory will be cherished by her mother Vera, her brothers: Ross, Alvin and Glenn as well as by her sister Mary. She will be fondly remembered by her aunts: Lila (Tom) Krahn of Brooks and Enid Turnbull of Sundre; two generations of nieces and nephews who were very dear to her as well as a large extended family and many special friends.

Anora was predeceased by her father Bruce, her great uncle Carl, brother-in-law Larry and cousin Kevin who also passed away early in life. She is further predeceased by her grandparents and many very dear aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Anora had an infectious ability to make everyone she knew a happier, better person. She was blessed with many relationships both at home on the farm and in Calgary. She loved the many visits she received from those dear to her. Anora enjoyed being included and taking part in all of life's activity; you could see the joy she felt in her smile. She was much loved and will be dearly missed.

Those wishing to pay their respects to Anora were welcomed by the family at Mountain View Funeral Chapel, 5226 – 46 Street, Olds for a time of visitation on Saturday, January 2, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. The funeral service for Anora followed at 2:00 p.m.

If friends so desire, memorial donations in Anora's name may be directed to the Alberta Children's Hospital, 2888 Shaganappi Trail NW, Calgary AB T3B 6A8 or to the charity of one's choice. Condolences can be forwarded to the family at [www.Mountainviewfuneralchapel.com](http://www.Mountainviewfuneralchapel.com). Arrangements are entrusted to Mountain View Funeral Chapel, 5226 – 46 Street, Olds AB T4H 1B8. Phone 403 556 3223.



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**Robert GORDON****1919 - 2009**

Robert (Bob) Gordon of Didsbury, Alberta passed away at the Didsbury Hospital on Dec. 24th, 2009 at the age of 92. He will be lovingly remembered by his sons Barry (Lori), Stuart (Marge), and daughter Sandra Farr (Gordon), six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Bob was predeceased by his wife, Margaret Olive in 1991. Bob was born in Rigg, Scotland on December 31, 1916. He was the eldest of 8 children. He joined the Lancashire police force in 1937, and during that time he met and married Olive. Their first son Barry was born in 1941, and the same year he joined the Royal Armoured Corp, and did a short tour of duty in North Africa and Burma. He was also involved in the D-Day invasion. After the war, the twins were born, Sandra and Stuart. They made the arduous journey to Canada in 1953, and took up residence in Carstairs, Alberta. A few years later they moved to Sundre, Alberta, where Bob was employed at the Hungry Horse Ranch until 1963. He later worked for Fluor Corporation, and then moved to Red Deer, Alberta and worked at Central Equipment Rentals as a heavy duty mechanic until his retirement. Bob stayed in Red Deer until moving in 2000 to Didsbury to be closer to family. He enjoyed spending time at the family farm, and loved living his final years in Didsbury.

Bob was a strong, committed family man, and loved spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Although from Scotland, he was loyal to Canada and said this country had been very good to him, and never regretted moving from the land of his birth.

At Bob's request, a private service was held on Wednesday, December 30, 2009. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Breast Cancer Supportive Care Foundation in Calgary Alberta, #304, 3031 Hospital Drive NW Calgary AB T2N 2T8.

Condolences can be forwarded to the family by visiting [www.reddeerfuneralhome.com](http://www.reddeerfuneralhome.com).

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A sincere thanks to the nurses and staff at the Didsbury Hospital in Unit 2, Acute Care for the kind and compassionate care given to our Dad during his short stay in the hospital. Also special thanks to George, Darlene, and Wendy who took a special interest in Dad. The family found great comfort in the fact that you treated him with dignity, respect and most of all your friendship.

*Sincerely,*

Sandy Farr, Barry Gordon,  
Stuart Gordon and families

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Thank you for the prayers, phone calls and visits.

The flowers, food, cards, e-mails, and your special loving, supporting visits to Karen and her family in Calgary mean so much.

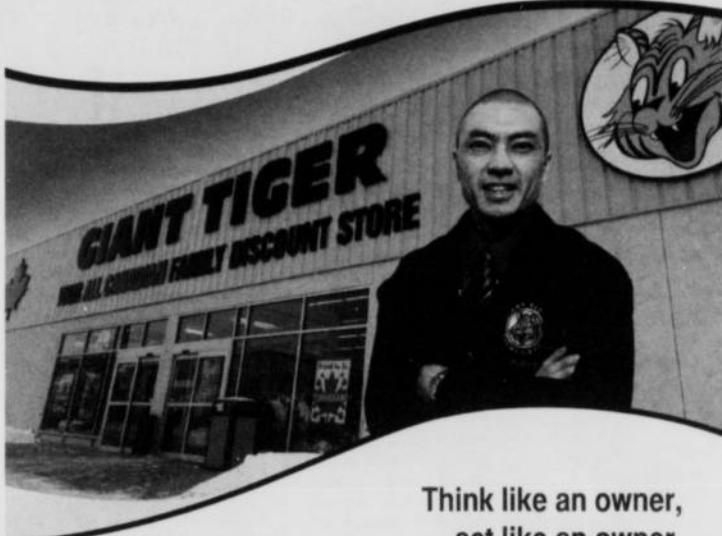
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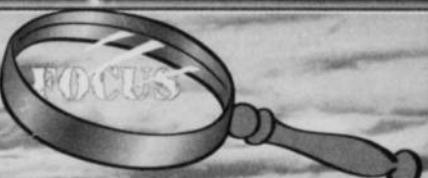
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